

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT (POLREP)**

**Date:** May 20, 1999  
**Subject:** Rogers Fibre Mill Superfund Site  
**From:** OSC Janis Tsang, US EPA, Region I  
**To:** Attached List  
**POLREP No.:** 4  
**Site ID No.:** 5Z  
**Contract #/D.O. #:** 68-S3-2001/2001-02-164  
68-R1-9801/0003  
**Response Authority:** CERCLA  
**NPL Status:** non-NPL  
**State Notification:** ME DEP notified  
**Cause of Release:** Improper Storage of Drums/Tanks/Containers  
**Mobilization Date:** July 1, 1998

**Superfund Records Center**

**SITE:** Rogers Fibre Mill

**BREAK:** 2.4

**OTHER:** 668342

**Site Information**

See POLREP #1.

**Response Information**

**I. Situation :**

Since the last POLREP, the phase II demolition of the foundation was completed. Additional contaminated sediments and soils were removed and disposed of at Sawyer Environmental Recovery Facilities, Inc. (Sawyer) in Hampden, ME. RCRA-regulated hazardous metal slags and contaminated soils which were removed between the two stone abutments on the island were disposed of at Stablex in Canada. Several public events, such as public informational meeting and open house, were conducted. On April 7, 1999, Bar Mills Dam was purchased by FPL Energy, Inc. (FPL) from Central Maine Power (CMP) Company. Since then, meetings, dam inspections and teleconferences have been conducted among EPA, FPL, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the post removal conditions of the mill dam and responsibility for conducting future inspections and maintenance of the mill dam.

Stabilization of failing retaining walls and placement of rip-raps below street elevation has been completed. Metal slags removed from the rock bank of the river side of the island and main river bed by the island were drummed and awaited disposal arrangement. The site was temporarily demobilized while awaiting bids for decontamination of metal-contaminated concrete surface, installation of metal grates in the turbine room and completion of the remainder of the site restoration activities. Sediment sampling was taken for metals and SVOCs analyses. The purpose of the sampling was to verify and document the post removal on-site sediment conditions. Although EPA is waiting for the SVOC data, preliminary laboratory results for metals showed that metal levels are substantially higher than the cleanup level. EPA is currently conducting additional sampling and volume estimate for the remaining sediment and will be evaluating further action.



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## II. Removal Actions Taken To-date:

- On March 16, 1999, a public informational meeting was held at the Buxton Town Hall. On March 22 and 25, 1999, EPA had open house at the Site for citizens who might have information regarding the previous operations at the site. EPA also set up hot line for citizens to provide information.
- Six (6) composite sediment samples were taken from the 6- and 8-ft penstocks for SVOCs, VOCs, total metals, cyanide, sulfide and PCB/pest. analyses. Three composite sediment samples from the penstock were taken for asbestos analysis. Two (2) composite samples were taken from the stockpile for SVOCs, total metals, cyanide, sulfide and PCB/pest. analyses. The results found the following contaminants (maximum concentration shown):

CONTAMINANT	MAX. CONC.
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	2 ppm
m&p-Xylene	2 ppm
Butylbenzyl phthalate	1900 ppm
Bis (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	10 ppm
total polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	755 ppm
chromium	1430 ppm
cadmium	7.7 ppm
arsenic	26.1 ppm
Archlor 1260 (PCB)	1 ppm
mercury	1.08 ppm
asbestos	<1 percent

- Approximately 25 tons of RCRA hazardous soil was sent to Stablex for disposal.
- Since December 1998, an approximate total of 3834 tons of contaminated soil/sediment were sent to Sawyer for disposal.

- In late March, due to excessive rainfalls, the on-site water treatment was not able to treat the volume of water and the rising water table made sediment excavation difficult. It appeared that some areas in front of the penstock have residual contaminated sediment at a depth that varies from a few inches to 4 feet. OSC decided that it is not economically feasible to remove the remaining sediment given the unfavorable conditions and that assessment/evaluation of this sediment would need to be conducted.
- Samples were taken from the oil tank (used for fueling on-site equipment) containment area and from the rinsed water of the water treatment equipment and analyzed for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), metals and pH. The results were below the local discharge limits. Approximate 250 gallons of wastewater were sent to Biddeford Wastewater Treatment Plant for disposal.
- One 55-gallon drum of metal slags which was retrieved from the rock bank of the riverside of the island and main river bed by the island was staged by the red house on the site awaiting disposal arrangement.
- On April 14, 1999, EPA met with members of Saco River Corridor Commission to provide them with an update of the removal action.
- On April 21, 1999, OSC Tsang and IT conducted a bid walk with prospective bidders for site restoration activities. Weston-START collected and sent a total of six (6) sediment samples to EPA New England Regional Laboratory (NERL) for total metals and SVOCs analyses. The purpose of the sampling was to verify and document the post removal on-site sediment conditions. On May 13, 1999, OSC Tsang received the following metals data from NERL: Cr (71 ppm to 665 ppm), Cu (72 ppm to 441 ppm), Pb (142 ppm to 557 ppm) and Zn (228 ppm to 517 ppm). OSC Tsang has not received the SVOCs data yet.
- On May 4<sup>th</sup>, technical representatives from EPA, FERC, FPL, the Town and ME IF&W met and inspected the dam. The objectives for the meeting were:
  - (1) to confirm that the mill dam conditions (after the removal action) were acceptable to FERC and FPL;
  - (2) to reach agreement with FPL, FERC and ME IF&W on the final conditions of the two 12-inch pipes which EPA plugged during the removal action; and,
  - (3) to coordinate with all interested parties regarding the post removal site control.

At the conclusion of the meeting, FERC and FPL indicated that the current mill dam condition was acceptable. The group agreed that the east 12-inch pipe will remain plugged as is and the west pipe will be modified to allow some amount of flow. FPL agreed to conduct post removal inspections at the mill dam as required by FERC. The group felt that the above-mentioned meeting objectives were achieved and another meeting would not be necessary.

- Due to previous scheduling problems and in light of the fact that the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting attendees deemed a follow-up meeting unnecessary, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, OSC Tsang sent a note via facsimile to ME DEP, the Town, SRCC, FPL, US F&WS, ME IF&W and the mill owner (via his attorney) confirming the follow-up meeting cancellation and that reports will be followed upon the completion of the removal action.

### **III. Future Plans:**

- Conduct additional sampling and volume estimates for the remaining sediment and evaluate further action.
- Coordinate with FERC, FPL and ERT/REAC to implement modification of the west 12-inch pipe.
- Complete decontamination of the metal contaminated concrete surface.
- Complete disposal of the drum of metal slags and other wastes generated during the removal.
- Complete site stabilization activities.
- Coordinate with Weston-START to conduct the post removal background sediment and surface water sampling.
- Send closure letter.
- Complete the OSC report.

**IV. Cost Information<sup>1</sup>: As of May 7, 1999**

	Amended Ceiling	Estimated Expenditure	Balance
ERRS <sup>2</sup> :	\$ 2,330,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 80,000
START:	220,000	210,000	10,000
EPA:	200,000 <sup>4</sup>	185,000	15,000
EPA/ERT:	220,000 <sup>5</sup>	170,000	50,000
ACOE:	30,000	15,000	15,000
CONTINGENCY:	85,000	-0-	85,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,085,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,830,000</b>	<b>\$255,000</b>

**CASE PENDING**

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<sup>1</sup>The above costs do not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

<sup>2</sup>ERRS stands for Emergency Rapid Response Service, formerly known as ERCS.

<sup>3</sup>\$125,000 was reallocated from the contingency fund to ERRS.

<sup>4</sup>\$15,000 was reallocated from the contingency fund to EPA.

<sup>5</sup>\$25,000 was reallocated from the contingency fund to EPA/ERT. \$20,000 was reallocated from the ACOE.